



Department of Justice

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FUGITIVES INDICTED FOR ROLES IN FAILURE TO APPEAR AND ESCAPE

*– Father fled to Mexico with girlfriend after being released
from custody for potential kidney donation to son*

LOUISVILLE, KY - A federal grand jury in Louisville returned an indictment against **Byron Keith Perkins**, age 39, formerly of Campbellsville, Kentucky, in Taylor County, and **Lea Ann Howard**, age 36, formerly of Harrodsburg, Kentucky, in Mercer County, on charges of Failure to Appear and Escape (Perkins) and Aiding and Abetting Failure to Appear and Aiding or Assisting Escape (Howard), U.S. Attorney David L. Huber of the Western District of Kentucky announced today.

On January 24, 2005, Perkins, with the assistance of Howard, failed to return to the custody of the United States Marshal Service after having been temporarily released from custody for the purpose of undergoing medical testing to determine if he was a suitable candidate to donate a kidney to his son. The Indictment charges that as a result of his failure to appear and absence for over a year, Perkins, with the assistance of Howard, escaped from the custody of the Oldham County Jail where he was being held while awaiting sentencing on Federal drug and firearm charges.

In the event of a conviction, the maximum potential penalties are 10 years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of 3 years.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Robert B. Bonar, and it was investigated by the United States Marshal Service and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Perkins had previously, on November 18, 2005, pled guilty to possession with intent to distribute marijuana, felon in possession of a firearm, possession of a firearm in relation to drug trafficking, and robbery. (*See press release*)

Byron Perkins is scheduled to appear for a preliminary hearing and further proceeding hearing on May 29, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. Lea Ann Howard is scheduled to appear for arraignment before the United States Magistrate Judge on June 20, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. in Louisville, Kentucky.

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The indictment of a person by a Grand Jury is an accusation only and that person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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